

# National Wildland Fire Outlook

October 1 to October 31, 2002

**\*ALASKA - Potential: Normal.** Alaska has entered a fall pattern with minimal, if any, fire potential.

**\*NORTHWEST - Potential: Normal to Above Normal.** Northwest Washington is expected to have the best chance of receiving significant precipitation, while the rest of the region will remain in high fire danger due to a continuing lack of precipitation. Drought remains entrenched over most of the Northwest, and may worsen in some portions of the area during this reporting period.

**\*SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA - Potential: Normal to Above Normal.** Little or no rainfall with above normal temperatures should keep the high fire danger conditions through this reporting period. Drought conditions remain moderate to severe over most of the area, and is unlikely to change in October. Fuel moisture measurements are ranging from below average to near record low levels across the entire area.

**\*NORTHERN CALIFORNIA - Potential: Normal to Above Normal.** The continuing drought is expected to keep most of northern California above normal for fire potential in October, with only the Pacific coastal areas remaining near normal. Temperatures are expected to be normal to above normal, with intermittent periods of below normal temperatures during this reporting period. Precipitation is expected to be below normal during the first half of October, increasing to near normal levels during the second half of the month.

**\*NORTHERN ROCKIES - Potential: Normal.** Recent precipitation, and cooler temperatures has reduced fire activity. Occasional intrusions of cool, unsettled weather from Canada will moderate the fire danger. Both precipitation and temperatures are expected to be near normal in October.

**\*WESTERN GREAT BASIN - Potential: Normal to Above Normal.** Conditions in Nevada will remain conducive to large fires due to the continuing drought and dry fuels. Temperatures and precipitation are expected to be near normal during this reporting period. Northwest Nevada south along the Sierra Front will remain above normal for fire potential, with the rest of Nevada near normal.

**\*EASTERN GREAT BASIN - Potential: Normal.** The onset of fall weather patterns from summer to fall should gradually decrease fire potential across the entire area. Temperatures and precipitation are predicted to be normal during this reporting period, gradually improving fuel moisture levels in the northern portion of the area. However, normal precipitation in southern Utah and the Arizona Strip will not be sufficient to improve deficient fuel moisture levels in those areas.

**\*SOUTHWEST - Potential: Normal.** Monsoon weather in September has moderated fire potential across much of the area. However, severe drought continues in much of Arizona and northern New Mexico, with fuels continuing to be abnormally dry. Temperatures are expected to be above normal across southern Arizona and New Mexico, and be near normal across the rest of the area. Precipitation is expected to range from near normal to above normal across the region, with the exception of northeast Arizona and southwest Texas, both of which will likely be normal to below normal.

**\*ROCKY MOUNTAIN - Potential: Normal.** The onset of cooler temperatures and increased precipitation are expected to moderate fire activity despite the severe to exceptional drought continuing in Colorado, Wyoming and South Dakota. Temperatures are expected to be near normal across the area during this reporting period. Above normal precipitation in October should help to moderate the severe drought in the region.

**\*EASTERN - Potential: Below Normal to Above Normal.** Recent tropical storms have moderated fire potential across much of the area. Portions of the Great Lakes region are expected to have below normal fire potential, with the exception of northeast Minnesota and central Michigan, which are predicted to be above normal due to persistent precipitation deficits. New England and the rest of the region are expected to have near normal for fire potential.

**\*SOUTHERN - Potential: Below Normal to Above Normal.** Tropical storms are expected to improve drought conditions across much of the Southeast, and reduce the likelihood of large fires during this reporting period. However, below normal precipitation is expected for portions of Arkansas, Oklahoma and northeast Texas, keeping this region above normal for fire potential. Temperatures are expected to be above normal across the entire area in October. The rest of the area is expected to have near normal fire potential.

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